

REDMOND PARK BOARD
Minutes
June 1, 2004
Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center

I. Call to order

The regular meeting of the Redmond Park Board was called to order by Chairperson Lori Snodgrass at 7:01 p.m.

Board members present: Chair Lori Snodgrass, Seth Kelsey, David Degenstein, Suzanne Querry, Sue Stewart

Absent and excused: David Ladd, Ann Callister and Katherine Zak, Youth Advocate

City staff present: Tim Cox, Manager of Parks Planning; Danny Hopkins, Parks and Recreation Director; Tom Trueblood, Recreation Manager; Sharon Sato, Recording Secretary

Welcome to Citizen Guests:

II. Approval of Minutes

The Redmond Park Board minutes of May 6, 2004 were approved as presented:

Motion for approval of May 6, 2004 Redmond Park Board minutes as presented by: Suzanne Querry

Second by: Sue Stewart

Motion carried: 5-0 unanimous

III. Items from the Audience

Paul Rasmussen, Redmond, Washington – stated he had no objections to the Rowing Club's proposal, however, parking had always been a major problem and inquired how the parking situation would be addressed.

Hopkins stated that the current parking lot would be increased to double the size of the existing parking lot to increase to 92 total stalls. Funding for expanding the parking lot may be 2-3 years out. Parking will be addressed before this type of recreation support facility will be introduced to the site.

Hopkins also noted that a playground project would proceed this year.

Carol Rich, Fairweather Condos – stated that she was a member of the Sammamish Rowing Club when it was temporarily housed at Idylwood Park and during that time noticed that there was a tremendous amount of traffic congestion and people who abused the wildlife (eagles and osprey) and flora and fauna. She stated that she felt that human habitation threatened the wildlife and asked to go on record as asking the city to consider another alternative to the Rowing Club's proposal. She also noted that there were several other places on the lake less used.

David Jones, Redmond resident – concern about noise brought to park, especially in early morning (5:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.), noise at the park is disturbing, asked the Board to consider the noise issue.

Margaret Ellsworth, Redmond resident – regular visitor to the park. Feels that plans would turn park into a "mini city center" with a great increase in traffic and devastation to whatever is there now. She stated that it is one of the few remaining waterfront parks with a feeling of space and is not overcrowded – it is turning into a Marymoor dog park (off leash dogs on beach) – with beautiful vistas. The Rowing Club may bring a huge amount of traffic and people that may not care as much about the land or wildlife.

Degenstein asked if she had seen the Rowing Club's prior proposals, suggested changes within the park – moving of the dock, picnic area. She had – changes that were inevitable, however, stated that she would hate to see the increase in traffic volume and people.

Steve Jones, Lakewood Shores Condominiums – SRA member. Feels that the area in which the SRA is currently located is more environmentally sensitive. The SRA works closely with the Marymoor Park Audubon Society. People currently using the lake for recreational purposes are more insensitive to the environment than what the Rowing Assn. proposes.

Dale Doornick, Sammamish Rowing Assn. – Current location at Marymoor has a lot of wildlife (ducks, birds, etc.), no trash, neat and orderly, and would not large affect on environment.

Colleen Houlihan, West Lake Sammamish Parkway – Lived in and near the park her entire life. Years ago the park was privately owned and operated as a small resort;

traffic was overflowing during the summer months. She stated that all the animals are undisturbed by the people during the busy summer months. She noted that having the Rowing Club in the park may keep random teenage activity from occurring; constant flow of people may deter any vandalism. Noise is not an issue and she enjoys the sounds of summer activity associated with living near the lake.

Kevin Foster, neighbor of park - resident before park was there - adding a water park would add a dimension to the park and would complement the park. He stated that the park should be viewed as a multi-dimensional park for many activities and suggested adding more picnic tables.

Snodgrass closed the discussion and invited those that had any further comments to e-mail the Park Board at www.parkboard@redmond.gov. or send to Parks staff at the City Annex Building.

Snodgrass noted an addition to the agenda - New Business - Reappointment of the Youth Advocate - V.C.

IV. Additions to the Agenda/Handouts

Youth Advocate Position re-appointment - Katherine Zak - as written and presented by the Board:

Katherine Zak has been an outstanding member of the Park Board as our Youth Advocate for two years. Katherine has demonstrated commitment, interest, and comes to our meetings prepared. She has developed a good rapport with Park Board members and doesn't hesitate to ask questions. Katherine contributes actively with comments and observations. Her participation is in addition to her studies and swimming. Katherine's contribution to the Park Board is valuable, and we therefore put forward a motion to reappoint Katherine Zak as Youth Advocate to the Redmond Board of Park Commissioners.

V. Old Business

A. Municipal Campus Master Plan

Kris Snider, consultant, presented the Board with the preferred alternative. The project is currently at a "mid-stream" portion of completion. Snider pointed out that the presentation would include updating the Board on the latest revisions and refinements of the City Campus Park Master Plan.

- Started with 3 basic concepts – A, B, C – created broadest range of ideas for the campus. A – northwest, organic, informal, lots of native trees and vegetation, water going all the way through. B – ½ scheme related to the river, very organic other ½ transitional to the City. C – all the way to the river's edge, more organized, axial, geometric and varied order.
- Looked at whole campus, how it operated and functioned, what future events will take place
- Took to all Boards and Commissions – Arts, Trail, Park Board, Design Review Board
- Consensus was Alt. A, as refined and developed. (Some initial concerns were; not enough open space, too closed in, safety issues, venues not big enough). Allowing more infusion and strong underlining ideas on the site, also attach and allow a lot of function.
- Native forest, ferns, more evergreen trees – create a connective thread through site, reinforcing a central path from River Trail through city – reinforce trail with water and topography, creating a line of activity. Open space pieces become attached to the line of activity. Soften places with the highest aesthetic level.
- Ample parking for city events – added parking garage
- Number of pathways and bridge connection
- Areas of water will be shallow for children's play
- Water garden – Rainwater Garden demonstrates how rain water is collected and infiltrated back into the aquifer
- Stage like element – terracing
- Passive and central green areas
- Water in front of City Hall, placid, reflective pool – connection to river
- Outdoor uses – Derby Days, RedmondLights – accommodate with a variety of open spaces – current Art Sculpture Garden area – can accommodate 2,000 people
- ADA Accessible, integrated into the slope of landscape
- Possible observation point on river – Heron House
- Movies in the park during the summer months
- Senior Center Terrace – for dining and interaction – pull Sr. Center into park
- Lighting will be soft
- Restroom locations – Centralized, adjacent to nexus of trail, at 153rd, in building (Sr. Center). Still to be determined.
- Campus, extension of the river

- Walk bike through campus for safety reasons

Kelsey noted that he had a concern regarding the number of pedestrians and the safety factor involved in the walkway system. Snider noted that it should be much safer and that the issue was addressed carefully.

Querry commended the consultants for blending all the feedback into a workable plan. She inquired what percent of original lawn would be maintained – 60%.

Comments from the audience:

- Need a more focused downtown area
- Vegetation growth timeframe? Trees – 2” caliper, trees tall but limbed high, grow cover low – any relocated trees will be moved and salvaged – can be moved up to 9” caliper

Snodgrass noted the Campus Central Park site will provide the downtown area with a “central park” feel area with recreation.

Kelsey noted he had two concerns – one in the design work, landscaping overcrowd and overgrowth, producing a maintenance problem. He suggested spacing and lower growing plants. Garden on the eastside – maintenance and budget issue of a pea patch in that area. Kelsey commended Hewitt for a good start in the process.

Snodgrass noted that she liked the calming aspect of the water and asked if the water elements were at grade. Snider responded that it would be more like a recycled water system. Snodgrass noted that the lighting element aspect of planning needed to be addressed at a higher importance on the budget scale.

Cox stated that there would be cost figures and a breakdown of approximate budget presented before Board action. He also noted that it would be logical to go through a phasing process, setting up draft text of the phasing and costs in the beginning.

Motion by Kelsey: To accept the Municipal Campus Master Park Plan, as preferred Alt. A, with comments from the Board.

Second by Querry.

Unanimous: 5-0

B. Idylwood Park Opportunity Study

Staff handed out the proposed Opportunity Study and noted that there were a few changes made. The Board asked that Katherine Zak, Youth Advocate, be added to the list of credits. There will be a final executive summary for review. The Board suggested that the Study go forward to City Council for adoption.

Comments made by Board members:

- Parking issue important and will be increased
- Environmentally sensitive areas enhanced
- Water activity building to be generic
- Building concept fits into the size and proportionate to the park
- No changes per discussion from last months' meeting

Motion by Query to accept the Idylwood Park Opportunity Study as amended and presented.

Second by: Kelsey

Unanimous: 5-0

Hopkins noted that the building shown on the plan was a "space holder" and not necessarily a recommended space for any organization.

C. Sammamish Rowing Association Proposal – Steve Isaac

Steve Isaac, Sammamish Rowing Association – gave the Board a brief presentation on the Rowing Association's rowing facility building. Isaac noted that there had been tremendous positive response to the proposal. Isaac noted the following:

- Substantially modified from the original designed plan
- All issues/concerns have been addressed
- Plan show two buildings – community building/facility and rowing shell house (2 stories)
- Larger building will be elevated at ground level so that visibility will be less unobstructed – no stairs (wheelchair accessible)
- Rowing building will have a glass front, boat visibility from road – from street view is 1 level
- 2 plazas – 1 upper and 1 lower – plaza use (art shows, small gatherings, theater)
- Parking lot would allow for circular driveway/drop off

- Important design aspect - noise mitigation
- Lower boat bay - shield by buildings from north and south - building will shield noise - activity will be centered toward the center core of the park
- Major issue of concern - will the building overwhelm the park? Per design drawing - it will not
- Docks - floating 8" off water - can be moved south
- Cottonwoods would not be disturbed
- Launch House - 11'x17' floating - located in the no wake zone, away from shore
- 2 to 3 launches with boat covers and locked - not connected to the park
- No special permit needed
- Quarry had concerns about swimmers and the attraction to swim to or play on launches.
- Snodgrass proposed a separate swim dock
- Isaac suggested/offered a separate swim dock/rowing area - piling or cables for dock moorage, salmon friendly floating docks with "see through" flooring - can launch 4 person shells simultaneously
- Stewart asked if the King County site would be vacated. Isaac noted that they would stay in the facility which would become a small boat facility for single/double kayaks and for week long sculling camps - some launching traffic
- Path to proposed launch - consider south of Boardwalk to floating platforms
- Specific ideas to relieve foot traffic
- July meeting more discussion on the programming element at Idylwood Park - part of recreation programming at park - Ken Wong, Youth Program Administration, would be working to create some youth programming at the park
- During peak summer hours - Jr. program will have about 120-200 kids

Phil Teller, Arts Commission - commented that park fees at Gene Coulon Park's boating facility were so high that the business closed, leaving the building to become a fast food establishment.

Isaac stated that the activities would be community focused, low cost fees, and their goal was to provide safe, fun boating activity for the community. The Association is a non-profit C501 organization.

Cox noted that a use agreement would be drawn up, operational lease. Terms would include city and state requirements (Design Review Board, shoreline permits, etc.)

Hopkins noted that further discussion by the Board would take place, then to City Council for consideration. More discussion at next months' meeting.

D. Capital Investment Program Update - Hopkins

Hopkins updated the Board on the Parks Department 2005-2006 CIP projects. He noted the following:

Grass Lawn Renovation	\$500,000
ORSCC Interior Renovation	\$200,000
Hartman Park Renovation w/partnerships	\$300,000
Deferred Renewal and Renovation of Parks	\$100,000
Idylwood Beach Park Picnic Shelter(s)	\$150,000
Dudley Cart Site	\$ 25,000
City Campus Phase I	<u>\$ 50,000</u>

Budget will be managed within the department.

Proposed project list will go before the Parks and Human Services Committee at a future date.

VI. New Business

A. Tour of Facilities

The Board discussed possibilities of a tour of past and current park projects. The Board's consensus for possible weekday dates - 6/22, 6/29, 6/30 - 6:00 p.m. to dusk. Board members will discuss on a workable date.

B. New Park Board Member

Application date for the Park Board vacancy closed. One application was received. The Board agreed to advertise for one more month to see if there was more interest, closing date July 15th.

C. Re-Appointment of Youth Advocate - Katherine Zak

The Board unanimously agreed that Katherine Zak should be reappointed to the Park Board for a second school year term. Snodgrass read a letter from the Board so noting that Zak is an asset to the Board and they whole heartedly recommend her request to remain on the Board.

Motion by Snodgrass, to reappointment Katherine Zak as Youth Advocate to the Parks Board for another school year term.

Second by: Degenstein

Approved: 5-0

VII. Reports

- Trust for Public Lands – Handout
Hopkins asked the Board to read the handout. Discussion will take place at next months' meeting.
- Sunset Gardens Park
Construction of gazebo is in progress, fencing is up, ribbon cutting will be in the near future, the sign has been order
- Perrigo Community Park
Ribbon cutting/Dedication will take place in late July to coincide with the Perrigo Family Reunion
- Evans Creek Greenway and Trail
Bids have been open. Approval to City Council on June 15th. Construction to begin this summer
- Juel Park
Redmond Colts Cricket Club won their first game . This is their second month of play. Every other Saturday they play home games.

VIII. Other

Snodgrass inquired if July's Board meeting could be held at the Council Chambers, to be televised by RCTV, due to the interest in the City Campus Park Master Plan. Staff will look into it.

Motion to adjourn by: Kelsey

Second by: Stewart

Motion carried: 5-0 unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

By: _____

Lori Snodgrass, Chair

Date

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Sharon Sato

Next Regular Meeting

July 1, 2004

7:00 p.m.

Location: Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center